

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing an aliphatic polyester with a reduced content of residual cyclic ester, comprising: producing an aliphatic polyester by ring-opening polymerization of a cyclic ester, wherein a latter period of polymerization is ~~proceeded with by way of~~ proceeds by solid-phase polymerization, and the resultant aliphatic polyester is subjected to removal of residual cyclic ester by release to a gas phase to reduce a residual cyclic ester content down to about 0.3 - 0.8 wt.%, and then contacting the resultant aliphatic polyester in a particle form with a flowing heated dry gas under normal pressure, thereby entraining the residual cyclic ester with the gas and reducing the residual cyclic ester content down to below 0.2 wt.%.
2. (Original) A production process according to claim 1, wherein solid-phase polymerization is performed at a temperature of below 195 °C.
3. (Previously presented) A production process according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic ester is glycolide or a mixture of glycolide and lactide.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) A production process according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the heated dry gas is at a temperature of 120 - 225 °C.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently amended) A production process according to claim 1, wherein the aliphatic polyester ~~resultant~~ after the polymerization is pelletized together with a thermal stabilizer and then the pelletized aliphatic polyester is subjected to the removal of ~~radical~~ residual cyclic ester.

8. (Currently amended) A production process according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the aliphatic polyester subjected to the removal of residual cyclic ester is in a form of particles having a diameter of at most 8 mm.

9. (Cancelled)